



The Australian Journal of **INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

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- b) Social and cultural pressures, especially during my period at college. I could have given up many times, but for family and friends. Other students did give up. The Aboriginal students needed to support each other.

After completing Kindercraft at the City Hall in 1968, I discovered a lot of jealousy and resentment instead of acceptance. This is when I went back to Cherbourg. I was called a 'white black fellow', or, 'she thinks she is white'. This was, and still is, very hurtful.

It is important then for Aboriginal and Islander people to become trained in the field of education and to keep it up no matter what anyone says. Maybe then these barriers will gradually be broken down.

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ABORIGINAL HOME VISITOR



*Linda Moore
Swan Hill, Vic.

My name is Linda Moore. I am an Aboriginal. My job as a home visitor is something like a go-between between parents and teachers. I go to classrooms and see how the teachers handle children, I observe different ways of teaching, and I also see how the Aboriginal children are coping with the work. I spend extra time with them to help them to understand more about particular subjects.

Visiting plays a big part in my job: communicating between myself and the parent, to help them to understand about school and how important it is.

Not only am I at the primary schools, but also I go to the high and technical schools to help them if they need any help. After school there is a homework class I run. It is a great help to them.

* Linda is employed by the local Aboriginal Education Committee with a grant from the Schools Commission.

I go to English and Maths classes at the library. These subjects have helped me to help the kids in these subjects at school. I am also learning to type and it is really good. I am doing teachers' aide training, learning about Aboriginal culture, public speaking, health, welfare and child development. I enjoy it very much.

Being a home visitor is good because I have learnt a lot of things I did not know before.



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LITERACY WORK AT THE TRAINING CENTRE

*Mary Ross

I would like to talk about my work. I am working as a literacy teacher at the Aboriginal Health Worker Training Centre. I am employed by the Institute of Aboriginal Development to work there.

I can't say very much, because I haven't been working as a teacher for long. But, I think we would all like to read and write. I know it's not very nice to go along to a meeting where there are a lot of Whites, when you can't understand what they are talking about. As we all know, they tend to talk in great big words which we cannot understand. I think we should learn a bit of reading and writing to understand what is going on around us. I think it's important that our children learn English so that they can help us later on, and also help themselves in the future years.

We want to see our own children controlling different things in the years to come. The only way we are going to do that is by sending them to school and having interest in what they are doing; not only to learn White ways, but also to learn about their own culture. At least one Aboriginal language should be taught, not only to Aboriginal children, but also to White children. They should be able to learn our language, so that people could get on better with each other and so that they could understand the ways of our people, as well as their own.

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